

THE King having impartially considered both the Sufferings of the Royal Family, and the Troubles and dismal Prospect of these Kingdoms; and being fully resolved, by the Help of God, to recover His own Right, and restore the Peace and Prosperity of these unhappy Nations; He is most willing to remove all Obstructions, and to give the utmost Satisfaction that is in His Power, not only to the just Expectation, but even to the Wishes of His People.

Time, and the visible Hand of Providence have fully baffled and exposed some hellish and absurd Calumnies; and many of His most eminent Opposers have been oblig'd at last to acknowledge His Right of Blood, and Hereditary Title.

As to the chief Objection that remains, the *Difference of Religion*, His Majesty hopes, that all good Men will consider, that He was driven out of His Country in His Cradle; and that every Body's Education being the Choice and Business of their Parents, he was educated by His Parents in the Religion, and in that Church they themselves thought to be best. And now since He has been thus educated, and never seen any other Church, if He should declare Himself a Protestant, very few, even of His Friends, would believe Him, and His Enemies would be sure to turn it against Him, not only as a mean and dishonourable, but dangerous Dissimulation.

It is not possible for Him, in His present Circumstances, to enter into Disputes about Matters of Religion; and publick and formal Disputes are rarely attended with any real Advantage: But as soon it pleases God to give Him the full and free Opportunity of Conversation with His own Subjects, He promises upon His Honour, that He will fairly hear and examine whatsoever any good Man, Churchman or Layman, shall represent to Him in these Matters; and whatsoever shall be the Result as to His own private Opinion, His Administration shall be according to the Laws and Constitution, without giving the least Ground of Offence, or making the least Encroachment.

The Church of *England* has reason to be assur'd of His particular Favour, as well as His Protection, considering the early Assurances He gave in His *Instructions* bearing Date 1702, which He adheres to, and will faithfully make good.*

He thinks the Interest of the Church of *England*, and that of the Crown to be the same: They have always stood and fallen together; and the one hath been always struck at thro' the other. Her former Loyalty hath justly shin'd in the Esteem of all the World, nor ought her Principles to be reproach'd for the Fault of those who have unhappily departed from them in their Practice.

As the King will put it out of His Power to do any Hurt in Matters of Religion, so He gives all possible Assurance to the Security of all other Rights and Liberties, and even to the Satisfaction of His People; being fully resolved from the most solid and impartial Considerations, to make the Law of the Land the Rule of His Government, and to conform Himself to the Advice of Parliaments, which He judges to be the Security and Happiness of the King, as well as his People. All Ranks and Conditions of Men will find their Account in doing their Duty.

The Experience He hath got in suffering abroad, by the Misfortunes of the Royal Family, He will improve for the Good of His People, and for settling the Government in the Affections of His Subjects.

And as none but He can be capable of curing the Calamities and Divisions of these unhappy Nations, so He will use His utmost Endeavours for that End, as the true and impartial Father of His Family.

And as He designs to do all that is possible on His Part, for the Happiness and Satisfaction of His People; so He hopes, that all wise Protestants, laying aside all groundless Prejudices, will fairly meet His good Intentions, and give Him one of the best Arguments in the World, in Favour of Protestants, which is, Doing Him Justice, the Essential Part of Religion.

He is resolved never to abandon what is His Right by the Laws of God and Men. The Consequences of a disputed Succession, which have excluded so many others of the best Families in *Europe*, must be fatal to this, and After-Generations. For His own Part, whatever shall happen at any time to be the Situation of the Affairs of *Europe*, He hopes always to have Friends to espouse so good a Cause; and there can be no imaginable Way to cure, or prevent the Calamity and Confusion of these unsettled Nations, but by restoring of Right, and establishing the Government upon just, loyal, and ancient Foundations.

For these, and many other undeniable Reasons, His Majesty hopes, that those who have any Regard to their own, and Posterity's Happiness, will in cool Blood open their Eyes, and consider how inconsistent it is with Wisdom and Interest, as well as with Christianity, to continue an Injustice which has already cost

so many Millions of Men and Money, and to run on farther in the Labyrinth, when the only Remedy is not only just and honourable, but certainly the Interest of every Man that is not his own Enemy.

Jan. 3. 1714. O. S.

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Gen. 1714. O. S.

